

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"This doesn't look like a three months supply of shaving cream to me!"

Interim Committee Members Go to Work

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District
Our trio of 1962 legislative sessions are still fresh on the history books, but interim committees are already back at work, preparing for the 1963 regular session. Seven Assembly committees or subcommittees have scheduled hearings in various communities around the state during the next couple of weeks. Two of them will have been held before you read this.

Topics to be taken up vary from a highly technical one, the results of reprising on control of subsidence in the City of Long Beach, and on secondary recovery of oil from the pool under the City, to one which could produce some heat, the space needs of state agencies. A parade of interested witnesses is expected to appear and discuss the many subjects.

ONE GROUP, the adult education subcommittee of the Assembly, took up again the investigation of the need for training and retraining unemployed workers which it started last fall. At its recent meeting many labor and management experts on personnel utilization and training, as well as prominent educators, discussed the complexities involved.

Those present were reminded that a bill which proposed to set up a state commission on automation was defeated in the last moments of our first special session this year. It passed both houses in different versions. A conference committee agreed to a compromise, but it was rejected by the Assembly, thus killing the bill.

THE WORD "automation" has come to be a "dirty" word, used to conjure up unpleasant visions of long breadlines in our industrial centers, and starving mothers and children. The group was told that this derogatory usage of the word has become more prevalent since electronic data processing equipment went into wide employment.

References to the number of white-collar workers who will lose jobs because of it are frequent in the press, on TV and radio. In flat contradiction to such agitating statements are the reports of the U.S. division of labor statistics, which show that clerical employment in the nation rose from 9,152,000 in 1957 to 9,861,000 in 1961, and that it is still rising. The word "automatic," it was said, is just the most modern synonym for good old-fashioned "mechanization."

AUTOMATION frees men from hard or routine physical labor to work at jobs of a higher order, it was pointed out. It effects are precisely the same as those of "mechanization," or any other technological change.

So far as creation of new

jobs, or destruction of old ones, it acts no differently than have the million of inventions put to productive use in the U.S. since a continuous automatic flour mill was first built in 1784. Changing consumer tastes, new scientific discoveries and plain mismanagement of business enterprises have long had a more vicious effect on the number of jobs.

WHAT LITTLE hard core there seems to be left in the unemployment problem created by automation is the joint responsibility of labor, management and education. Two important factors seem involved in any particular situation.

First is the need of additional basic education, (training, to give it another name) for those individuals who were deprived of it early in life.

Second is the need of retraining in new job skills for those whose current jobs have actually been outmoded by new products, or machines. Adult education, if tailored to these needs, can serve a useful function in smoothing the way for automation, which history demonstrates, frees men from hard labor.

AQUARIUM SOCIETY TO INSTALL

Members of the Harbor Aquarium Society will install Al Doyle of Hawthorne as president at the April meeting of the group tonight at 8 in the recreation hall at McMasters Park, Yukon and Artesia.

Other officers to be installed during the 12th anniversary meeting include James Marshall, Redondo Beach, vice president; June Teuchert, Torrance, secretary; and Evelyn Church, Gardena, treasurer.

Committee chairmen will include Donald Lund, show table; Alvin McEwen, program; Russell Gammell, hospitality; Irene Lindquist, refreshments; Bertha Hutchison, publicity; June Teuchert, membership, and President Doyle and Alvin McEwen, prize table.

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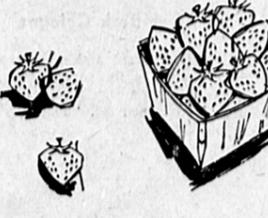
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